



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

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Executive Registry

76-6339

14th January, 1976

Mr. William Colby,
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington DC 20505,
USA

Dear Mr. Colby,

I have been in touch recently with one of your public relations staff, [redacted] about the possibility of your giving an interview to BBC Television.

[redacted] has explained to me the Agency's policy of denying facilities to the foreign press. While I do not understand the reason for us to be considered in a special light, I realise that we must accept the policy. And I am forced to reflect that we would not get very far if we were to approach your British equivalent, even if we were allowed officially to know his name.

Nevertheless, as [redacted] has pointed out, you are shortly to become a private citizen and I write to ask if you would consider an interview at that time. I fully realise that you must always be guarded about specific operations and about the recent political complexities in the relationship of the Agency to government. I would therefore stress our interest in more general reflections on your distinguished service, very much along the lines of the recent interview in TIME magazine.

My programme, 'Newsday', is a nightly public affairs broadcast consisting basically of a single interview done by a single interviewer. The interviews are usually between 20 and 30 minutes in length, are unadorned by extra film and are normally unedited. A somewhat 'dry' format to many eyes, but one which has often appealed to people who otherwise avoid the media. Our most recent foray across the Atlantic, by the way, was to Los Angeles last month for a half-hour interview with Ronald Reagan.

May I ask you to consider this request? Could one of your staff reply through our New York producer, Christopher Jeans, at (212) 581-7100 or by letter to me?

Yours sincerely,

John Reynolds,
Producer, BBC-TV, Newsday.

Paul Offner

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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*For review & comment
 to DCI*

Executive Secretary

23 Jan
 Date

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